

# ORGANIZATION OF BASEBALL BEGINS

## END OF GAME DEPENDS UPON LANDIS RULING

Judge Presides at Trial—First Time—Many Issues Involved.

New York, Dec. 11.—The greatest organization of baseball interests ever assembled in this country, including a program for complete reorganization of the sport's government, got under way here today.

Overriding all other problems facing the conference were the two major branches of the "national game"—the formation of a new national agreement.

Landis Presiding. The sessions will continue for several days, under the presidency of Judge K. M. Landis.

Facing the great task of formulating and enacting a new constitution, which it is hoped will satisfy all parties in the agreement, several other important deals involving exchange of major league players, many of which have been discussed recently, will be transacted.

Representatives. The organizations interested are represented as follows:

National league—August Herrmann, Cincinnati, Ohio; Barney Dreyfus, Pittsburgh, and Charles H. Ebbetts, Brooklyn, N. Y. American league—James C. Dunn, Cleveland; Thomas Shippe, Philadelphia, and Frank Navin, Detroit.

National association—Michael H. Barkin, Rock Island; Thomas J. Hickey, president of the American association; J. D. Martin, president of the Southern association; J. W. Hickey, president of the Texas league; George H. Maines, president of the Michigan-Ontario league; and W. H. Walsh, president of the South Atlantic league.

Two-Sided Task. It is generally expected that the new agreement will take the form of two parts: one between the National and American leagues, that will apply to questions involving only major league matters, and the other between the major and minor leagues, that will apply to questions involving the interests of these two divisions.

President Heydler of the National league has prepared a working draft of his ideas as to what should be included in the new agreement, and it is expected that similar suggestions will be received on behalf of the American league.

When the proposed new agreement finally is in shape for acceptance by the committee, it will be submitted by them to their respective organizations for ratification.

Joint Meet for Signings. With ratification accomplished by the different organizations involved, a joint meeting will be held in New York early in January for the formal signing of the new agreement.

The new agreement, in addition to outlining the duties and powers of Judge Landis, will confer upon him an official title, which probably will be director of baseball. He undoubtedly will have more power and authority than has been possessed by any individual or commission in the history of baseball.

As director of baseball, it is the general belief that Judge Landis will head a board of control, the members of which will sit with him merely in an advisory capacity, or as advisers in special cases of controversy, but not requiring decisions by Judge Landis. The advisory board members, according to this plan, will be without voting power.

Landis' Role Final. In such cases the decision of Judge Landis will be final. The proposed advisory board would consist of practical baseball men, possibly President Heydler of the National league and President Johnson of the American league, President Sexton and Secretary Parrell of the National association, and others.

The new agreement, in the opinion of baseball men here, is certain to contain a provision for the reorganization of the draft system, which means the selection of fixed sums of players in one league by clubs in a league of higher classification.

Minor Rule Expected. Such a provision is likely to meet with serious opposition from some minor leagues, and it is not unlikely that it would result in the formation of a new league, or at least to submit to control of this particular feature of the reorganization plan.

Some of the minor league clubs argued that under the old draft system they lost players through the draft for whom they could have received more than the draft price.

Eureka Basketball. Eureka, Ill., Dec. 11.—The basketball season was opened here on Thursday night, the Eureka college five beating Lincoln college 30 to 23, in the first game. The veteran Eurekaans, representing most of the stars of George Peckham's team of last season, played too heady a game for the Lincoln team.

Eureka led both halves, the score of the first period being 13 to 9.

The lineup: Eureka—Kirby and Horner, forwards; Dennis, center; Crocker, back; and Vissinger, guards. Lincoln—Deart and Walker, forwards; Alberts, center; Smith, guard; and Sparks, guards.

The Young of Bloomington, a new 14 official, refereed the game.

## Baseball Sovereign Opens Great Conclave to Solve Grave Problems of Crisis



Judge K. M. Landis.

## The Sportscope

BY BRUCE COPELAND.

### TITLE AT STAKE.

The Staley-Akron game in Chicago tomorrow is the all-absorbing sport topic today in the tri-cities. Owing to their loyalty to the middle west, many are inclined to believe the Staleys will win. However, the more calculating ones concede the conquerors of the Canton Bulldogs a victory by a narrow margin.

It would seem that the latter have calculated wisely. It is the logical procedure to pick as winner, the eleven which knocked the Thorpiana off the professional football throne—twice. The Staleys will find themselves topped, however slightly, in all departments of the game by a team which has played together for nearly three years. The Numatics are not a team of hand-picked college stars, who have played through only one season.

The Starchworkers have been unable to score more than one touchdown against any of their stronger opponents. Their usual victory was accomplished by one touchdown and one field goal. Akron has presented a far better scoring machine against the pick of the Ohio pack. Like the old Independents, Akron excels at straight football. They diversify their attack with just enough tricky plays to upset the dope. Defensively, the teams are well matched; offensively, Akron is the better eleven.

The professional title goes with the victory.

BASEBALL INQUEST. Baseball, large and small, gathered today in New York to legislate new life into the game.

Judge Landis, supreme head of the game, committees of the major and minor leagues, and flocks of managers, are assembled for a glimpse of the new national agreement.

In conformity with their custom, the managers would not make public the terms by which they hope to coax the minors back into their official family.

Garry, Herrmann, former chairman of the defunct national commission, and composer of the defunct national agreement, according to Argus news dispatches, was running around today with an armful of documents and papers containing the new agreement.

Herrmann, the dispatches say, would not comment on the plans he had incorporated in his new agreement, but he intimated several things.

It is certain that the minors will be asked to agree to the restoration of the draft and that the price will be increased from the old rate of \$2,500.

It also seems probable that the government of the game will be safeguarded further with the appointment of a commission to act in an advisory capacity with Judge Landis.

SIXTEEN MENTIONED. Mike Sexton of Rock Island, is regarded widely as the man to head such an advisory board. Mr. Sexton was re-elected recently as president of the National Association of Professional Baseball clubs, but his many admirers believe him still of greater value to baseball and have advocated his appointment to a higher plane.

The original Lasker plan, the suggestion of which almost tossed the American league on the rocks,

called for the appointment of a three or four-member commission, to include a director-in-chief, a representative of the two major leagues and the minors.

Believing that the minors will demand representation of some kind on the governing body of the game, the majors are now ready, it is believed, to return to the commission plan and let the minors choose a representative to sit with delegates of the majors on the advisory committee to Judge Landis.

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SEEK TO PLACE RING ON PLANE OF 'LADY' FANS

Legalized Boxing Which Women May Attend, Advocated.

Chicago, Dec. 11.—Legalized boxing, which women may attend just as they attend a performance at a theatre, is the aim of the official head of one organization in Illinois which has interested itself in the passage of a bill at the next session of the legislature at Springfield. This man believes that with an efficient commission to rule the sport, the boxing shows would find many devotees from the fair sex.

"Why shouldn't women attend bouts?" he asked. "And why shouldn't they enjoy them as much as their brothers? During the war, when boxing shows were held at the Great Lakes naval training station and Fort Sheridan, a big percentage of those at the ringside were women. They apparently found nothing repugnant about boxing."

More Fair Ringsiders. During the last year or two there has been a noticeable increase in the number of women patrons at boxing shows. This would seem to show the fair sex has found something of interest in boxing. But of greater importance from our viewpoint is the presence of women at the boxing shows. An example of this was given when World's Champion Jack Dempsey fought Billy Miske at Benton Harbor last Labor day.

In the crowd of more than 11,000 there were many women—a rough guess would be that there were 1,000 present—and their influence made that boxing bout perhaps the most orderly big ring event the writer ever witnessed.

Tone Down Boisterousness. There were plenty of thrills in the three rounds fought, with a knockout for the climax, but there was an absence of boisterousness. The presence of women kept the men within bounds, and their influence is certain to work for the betterment of boxing.

In Milwaukee, where bouts are held in the big Auditorium, many women may be found in the crowds. Some have learned to like boxing so well, according to Frank Mulken who operates the National A. C. of the Cream city, that they attend every show.

Hubbard City, Texas, Dec. 10.—(United Press.)—Chalk up new honors for Tris Speaker, Cleveland, Ohio, and Hubbard, Texas.

It happened in the last quarter here yesterday with the score tied and the opposition in the shadow of the "home town" goal posts. The Cleveland leader leaped into the air, intercepted a forward pass and saved the day for the local American Legion eleven, with whom he was playing a benefit contest.

The Cornell team will be made up of seven runners, a manager, Coach J. F. Moakley, the graduate manager, and an alumnus from New York who will serve as party diplomat to keep us out of trouble.

Carter was one of the stars on the local high school team in 1914, when the high school won the Big Eight championship, as well as the tri-city title. Previous to that time he had made a place for himself on the Pasadena, Calif., high school team, and later was a member of the St. Albans school of Washington, D. C., mile relay team which won the national schoolboy championship at the Penn relay carnival in 1916.

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## 'OLD MARY ANN' STOPS BECKETT

Frank Moran, Pittsburgh, Knocked Out British Champ in Second Round in London Ring.

London, Dec. 11.—(By A. P.)—Frank Moran of Pittsburgh, knocked out Joe Beckett, English heavy-weight champion, in the second round of their match in Albert Hall, here last night.

In the first round Moran led with his left, but was caught with a right to the jaw. Moran then swung his right and clinched. He was warned by the referee.

Beckett got in some good work in the second round and again Moran closed, trying short-arm jabs, which failed to land. Moran then got in a hard smash, but Beckett quickly retaliated with a powerful right to the jaw.

Beckett was floored with a crashing uppercut during the fighting and was counted out when he failed to rise. The end of the bout came amid excitement.

## LOMBARD GRID CHIEF BANNED

Professionalism Protest Against Murphy Upheld By I. L. A. C. Conference in Session.

Bloomington, Ill., Dec. 11.—The annual winter meeting of the Illinois Intercollegiate Athletic conference was held in this city yesterday with representatives of the 20 conference schools present.

Southern Illinois Normal school of Carbondale and Blackburn college of Carlinville were admitted to associate membership. The Decatur Y. M. C. A. was awarded the annual basketball tournament, which will be held March 3, 4 and 5.

The conference upheld the protest lodged against Captain Ray Murphy of the Lombard football team on the grounds of professionalism. Captain Murphy was barred from further competition. Coach S. L. Derby of Lake Forest college was present and announced that his school would present an application for membership at the March meeting.

## COLLEGE SOCCER TITLE AT STAKE, TIGERS VS. PENN

Princeton, N. J., Dec. 11.—Princeton and Pennsylvania meet here today to decide the intercollegiate soccer title. Both teams went through the regular season, which closed last Saturday, without a defeat.

Pennsylvania state, which is not a member of the intercollegiate league, has challenged the winner of today's game.

## ISLANDER RACES FOR CORNELL VS. OXFORD



C. Crawford Carter, "It's great fun if you don't weaken," writes C. Crawford Carter, former Rock Island high school track star, who sails on Dec. 14 for England as a member of the Cornell university cross-country team which is to race against the Oxford and Cambridge universities team over the seven and a half mile course during the Christmas holiday week.

The course is near London, with hedges to hurdle, water jumps to leap, and plenty of hills and dales. It's great sport if you don't weaken.

"We leave New York on Dec. 14 on the good ship Aquitania, and after a week at Cambridge and Oxford we have the race. We are coming back on the Imperator."

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## Islanders Were Cheated Of Seeing Jim in Action, But Here Is His Picture



JIM THORPE

Though age is making deep lines in Jim Thorpe's face, he defies time to rob him of his athletic progress. He is still a star on the baseball diamond and a super-player on the gridiron. Thorpe is now championing the cause of professional football, which he hopes to some day make a recognized big league sport.

By Dean Snyder. The halo with which athletes surround themselves is usually a short-lived thing. But the case of Jim Thorpe, the Carlisle Indian, is an exception. His greatness refuses to pass with the years. Thorpe is the greatest physical machine still. True, he has lost some of his dash and sturdiness, but he is wiser and more mature.

Time has chiseled lines in his face and grayed his hair, but his greatness remains a part of him. He had a big year in baseball as an outfielder for the Akron club of the International league. His batting average was well over the .300 mark and he ran wild on the bases.

Changing his spikes for his cleats was a mere difference of setting for his athletic prowess. For on the gridiron Thorpe is ever more superlative. As captain of the Canton (O.) Bulldogs, a professional football team made up of the college stars of a few years ago, mostly, his brilliancy continued to assert itself.

When Thorpe exhibited his stuff at the Polo Grounds, recently against the Buffalo All-Americans, eleven he was a good 35 per cent of the Bulldogs' attack.

Referee Tiny Maxwell called that gridiron exhibition the "errorless game in football."

The men made a few fumbles and missed passes, but they didn't fumble with their heads. Besides his strength and power the football coaches who worked out plays that fitted them individually, says Maxwell. "It wasn't spectacular football either, because each team played by the book and neither could get away with anything."

Individual Play. Those who expected to see Thorpe get away for long runs were disappointed. He doesn't do it any more. The defense in the professional game is much harder to break through.

Players are individual stars in their own rights. Their play depends on what they can do. The men seem to sense the plays. Thorpe is considered one of the best get away for long runs. Besides his strength and power the football coaches who worked out plays that fitted them individually, says Maxwell. "It wasn't spectacular football either, because each team played by the book and neither could get away with anything."

Boosts Pro Game. Thorpe is championing the cause of pro football. He says he believes the time has come for it to take its place along with other big league sports. Next year he may put a team of professionals in New York. In fact, the Canton, Buffalo game was a sort of trial for this idea.

But it didn't draw the crowd the promoters expected. Notwithstanding the fact that both teams were made up mainly of former All-American players but 6,000 people came out to watch them. Just a few weeks previous Rutgers and Nebraska had drawn 30,000.

Lacks Enthusiasm. So Thorpe's vision doesn't seem so rosy. Most of the spectators saw in it only a mechanical game. There was no loud cheering. The spirit which accompanies college football was lacking.

All of which leads one to think that football is perhaps after all more of a spectacle than a game. Without its setting amid wild cheering and school honor the color is gone.

Thorpe—the chief, sponsor of present-day professional football—seems to have a hard road ahead.

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## LIL' BROWN JUG HONOR TOKEN AT "BIG TEN" FEAST

Michigan Trophy At Conference Meet in Pittsburgh.

Pittsburgh, Pa., Dec. 11.—A five-gallon gray stone jug will have a position of honor on the University of Michigan table at the banquet of the Western Conference Alumni association here tonight.

The jug has a history dating back to 1903. The Michigan football team of that year journeyed to Minneapolis to play the University of Minnesota. A five-gallon gray stone jug was taken to Minneapolis by train. The game ended in a 6-6 score. During the excitement attending the close of the game, the jug disappeared, and later appeared in the trophy room of the University of Minnesota.

It remained there until 1909, when the Michigan team again went to Minneapolis to play. The night before, it was announced that if Michigan won she could have her jug back. Michigan won, 12-5, and went home carrying her trophy.

The same agreement was made before the 1910 game, but Michigan won the game and the jug.

Last fall, Minnesota went to Ann Arbor and defeated Michigan. She took the jug home with her. This year the jug was returned to Michigan, due to her 3-0 victory.

## STALEY-AKRON LINEUP AT CUB PARK TOMORROW

AKRON.

Pierce (Akron U.).....Right end  
Coley (Missouri).....Right tackle  
Cobb (Syracuse).....Right guard  
Bailey (W. Va.).....Center  
Trotter (N. D.).....Left guard  
Johnson (W. & L.).....Left tackle  
Nash (Rutgers).....Left end  
Harris (W. Va.).....Quarterback  
Pollard (Brown).....Right halfback  
McCormick (Navy).....Left halfback  
King (W. Va.).....Fullback

STALEY.

Halas (Illinois).....Right end  
Blacklock (M. A. C.).....Right tackle  
Jones (N. D.).....Right guard  
Trouton (N. D.).....Center  
Petty (Illinois).....Left guard  
Ingwersen (Illinois).....Left tackle  
Chamberlain (Neb.).....Left end  
Fletcher (Illinois).....Quarterback  
Driscoll (N. W.).....Right halfback  
Sternaman (Ill.).....Left halfback  
Kocher (N. W.).....Fullback

## GIPP PASSES BETTER NIGHT

Endurance of Notre Dame Grid Star Baffles Physicians As He Continues to Gain On Disease.

Notre Dame, Ind., Dec. 11.—George Gipp, all-American football player, clung desperately to the thread of life last night and showed slight improvement despite unfavorable reports which emanated from the sick room today. Gipp's endurance baffles analysis. His face brightened momentarily this morning when he was told of his selection on Samp's all-American eleven. "That's fake," was his comment on the latest and greatest honor that has been bestowed upon him. Physicians regard his condition last night as critical, but improved.

## SIX-DAY BIKE RACE NEAR END

Brocco and Coburn Seem Sure of Victory, Leading by One Lap as Pedalers Start Last Sprints.

New York, Dec. 11.—(United Press.)—With a one-lap lead over their nearest rivals and six laps over the trailing pair, Brocco and Coburn seemed sure of victory today when the six-day bicycle riders started on the last rounds of the race.

Brocco was leading at the 128th hour at 2,023 miles, 8 laps. Three teams were one lap behind—Debates and Persyn, Van Hevel and Van Denburgh and Taylor and Smith; four teams were two laps behind; Piani and Leone were three laps in the rear; Suter and Seeler four laps and Grimm and Vandevle brought up the rear six laps behind.

## TOM GIB' MAY BOX DEMPSEY

Ad Thatcher of Toledo, Plans to Bring Fighters Together—Signs Tommy and Calls for Date.

Toledo, Ohio, Dec. 11.—A 15-round boxing bout to a referee's decision between Jack Dempsey, world's champion heavyweight and Tommy Gibbons of St. Paul, is planned by Ad Thatcher, according to a statement Thatcher made today.

Thatcher, the man who assisted Tex Rickard in bringing the Willard-Dempsey match to Toledo, a year ago last July, said he had signed Gibbons to a contract and was waiting to hear from Jack Kearns, manager of Dempsey.

## PURPLE "FISH" OUT TO REPEAT WATER VICTORY

Northwestern Plans for Big Year in Swimming Tank in Defense of Last Year's Title.

Evanston, Ill., Dec. 11.—Northwestern university, last year's swimming champions of the western conference, will have another first class team this season and has hopes of adding another title to the already long Purple list. Coach Tom Robinson reports.

The Purple swimming coach looks for a big swimming year in the Big Ten. Minnesota, Iowa and Purdue are coming in for dual meets and the strength of all the teams is above that of last year, he says. Water basketball he expects to see take on a new lease of life, with seven teams in on the race.

Keen regret is expressed by the Northwestern water tutor that no dual meet has as yet been scheduled with Chicago. "It is the hope of the Northwestern fans that a meet with Chicago be arranged," he said. "There is a keen spirit of rivalry between the two teams and it seems a shame that they do not come together in a dual meet."

Maroon Turned Back. Chicago and Northwestern again battled it out at the annual conference meet last year, each having come through the dual meet season without a reverse. Chicago was forced to take second, Illinois came in third, Wisconsin fourth, Purdue fifth, Iowa sixth and Minnesota last.

"The Purple team has suffered a severe loss